

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00417 021509Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W
-----030455 113452 /14-R

R 021430Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7060
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0417

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AFSP, AMGHGN XJ, JR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 19370

1. DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IS IN
OFFING. AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND OTHER
MEMBERS OF WASHINGTON CONTINGENT AND TO COMPARING NOTES WITH
MY FIELD COLLEAGUES.

2. FOR ONE IN FIELD, COM CONFERENCE MEANS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR
AND DISCUSS WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVES ON BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES,
TRENDS AND PROBLEMS: MAJORITY RULE; SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT,
SOLUTION OF MILITARY AND/OR "MARXIST" REGIMES; FOCAL POINTS
OF TENSION SUCH AS HORN, ETC. OBJECTIVES, DIRECTIONS, PRIORI-
TIES AND TACTICS OF NEW ADMINISTRATION AND ATTITUDES AND GOALS
OF GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO ARE INCREASINGLY MORE
CONCERNED, MORE AWARE, AND MORE VOCAL ABOUT THINGS
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AFRICAN WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY OR WILL
BE REFLECTED IN ELABORATION OF WASHINGTON PERSPECTIVES.

3. I WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT ABIDJAN CONFERENCE WOULD PRO-
VIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME INTENSIVE INTROSPECTION ON OUR
ABILITY TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS WE
HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES IN AFRICA. THESE GOALS ARE DE-

PENDENT ON OUR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY WHICH IS
IN TURN A FUNCTION OF A BROAD RANGE OF MANAGEMENT CON-
CERNS AND CAPABILITIES--AND OF OUR FREQUENT INABILITY TO
BRING TOGETHER THE TRAINED PEOPLE, DOLLARS, EQUIPMENT,
PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND METHODOLOGY REQUIRED TO PUSH
PROGRAMS TOWARD ANNOUNCED OBJECTIVES. IN MAURITANIA,
US PRESENCE, GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE, IS INCREASINGLY
FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. USG'S DEVELOPMENT AC-
TIVITIES ARE IMPORTANT IN THEMSELVES AND IN TERMS OF
LEVERAGE THEY PROVIDE IN POLITICAL ARENA. YET HERE-- AND
ACROSS SAHEL JUDGING FROM TRAFFIC ORIGINATING IN NEARBY
POSTS--WE AND OUR COLLEAGUES IN AID AND PEACE CORPS HAVE
NOT YET EVOLVED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH INSURES TIMELY
AND CONTINUING FLOW OF INPUTS REQUIRED TO DESIGN, MOJ

AND OPERATE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIONAL (POLITICAL, CULTURAL,
COMMERCIAL) AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. AM-
BASSADORS BRADFORD, GRAHAM AND QUANTON HAVE RECENTLY
ADDRESSED ADVERSE IMPACT AID DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING
PROCEDURES HAVE HAD ON US AND HOST COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT
EFFORTS. SENATOR HUMPHREY SOMEWHAT EARLIER ADDRESSED
PROBLEMS WHICH AID'S "ARTERIOSCLERATIC" PERSONNEL SYSTEM
HAS CREATED, AND CALLED FOR "REHABILITATION" OF AID AD-
MINISTRATION. PURPOSE OF INTROSPECTIVE EXAMINATION I
PROPOSE IS NOT TO NITPICK, BUT TO ESTABLISH, ILLUS-
TRATE AND UNDERSCORE DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN OUR PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITIES AND OUR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE
OVERALL POLITICAL GOALS WE HAVE SET. IN SUM, FROM AD-
MITTEDLY LIMITED OPTIC OF NOUAKCHOTT, WE MUST EITHER SIG-
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NIFICANTLY IMPROVE OUR IMPLEMENTATION CAPABILITIES OR
ANTICIPATE UNPLEASANT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN OUR
INABILITY TO PRODUCE IN TIMELY FASHION BECOMES MANIFEST.
I WOULD HOPE THAT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF WHAT APPEARS
TO SAHEL-WIDE PROBLEM WITH SENIOR STATE, AID AND PEACE
CORPS PROGRAM MANAGERS WOULD PRODUCE MAJOR PROGRESS TOWARD
A SOLUTION ON GROUNDS THAT RECOGNITION OF A PROBLEM IS
HALF THE SOLUTION.

4. UNTIL ABIDJAN IN APRIL--WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION.
HANDYSIDE

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NNN

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